



Arizona Medical Board

9545 East Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona 85258

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Telephone (480) 551-2700 • Fax (480) 551-2705 • In-State Toll Free (877) 255-2212

DRAFT MINUTES FOR PHYSICIAN SCOPE OF PRACTICE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING Held on Thursday, January 24, 2008 9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona

Subcommittee Members

Robert P. Goldfarb, M.D., F.A.C.S., Chair
Ram R. Krishna, M.D.
Douglas D. Lee, M.D.
Lorraine L. Mackstaller, M.D.
Germaine Proulx
Amy J. Schneider, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The following Subcommittee Members were present: Dr. Goldfarb, Dr. Krishna, Dr. Lee, Ms. Proulx, and Dr. Schneider. Dr. Mackstaller joined the meeting at 12:10.

Call to Public

Karen Connell, Mutual Insurance Company of Arizona (MICA), commented on the letter MICA previously submitted to the Subcommittee. Ms. Connell thanked the Subcommittee for considering the comments sent in by MICA. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation of the stakeholders' participation.

Approval of Minutes

December 14, 2007 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Dr. Krishna moved to approve the July 18, 2007 Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

SECONDED: Dr. Lee

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent

MOTION PASSED.

Discussion of Scope of Practice Guidelines

Dr. Goldfarb led the discussion regarding the Draft Scope of Practice Guidelines. He stated there have been issues in the State that have reached the newspapers, and with changing medical practices it is important that physicians understand what the Board and the public expect. The Subcommittee Members were in agreement with the changes made to the Draft in regard to the letter submitted by MICA.

Dr. Lee suggested distributing the Guidelines as a Substantive Policy Statement. Dr. Krishna disagreed and stated that as practice patterns change the Guidelines are more flexible and the Subcommittee can come back to the issue at a later date to make amendments if needed. Dr. Goldfarb recommended submitting the Draft to the full Board at the February 2008 meeting for approval. He also suggested having the Draft disseminated to each licensee with a cover letter from the new Executive Director. Dr. Goldfarb stated it is important for each licensee to receive the Guidelines. Lisa McGrane, Investigational Review Office Manager, suggested having the Guidelines distributed via email to save on mailing costs to the agency. The Subcommittee agreed for Board Staff to explore alternate ways to distribute the Draft.

Dr. Lee suggested adding language that refers to management and treatment modalities to the second sentence of the first paragraph of the "Preamble". He questioned whether it is important to differentiate between the description of "area" and "field" of practice. Dr. Goldfarb opined that "area" of medical practice was a global term that refers to a physician's

practice after completing training. "Field" of practice, he stated, is the area in which a physician studies prior to licensure. For those reasons, he suggested leaving both terms in the document.

Dr. Lee agreed with comments from MICA regarding the details of a physician practicing differently within their field, as long as the physician has some expertise in what he/she is practicing. The Subcommittee agreed with Dr. Mackstaller's recommendation to change the second sentence of the first paragraph of the "Preamble" to read "With the advent of changing medical knowledge and treatment modalities, new technologies, fluctuations in healthcare workforce and specific healthcare specialties, and consumer demand, physician practice patterns are changing."

Dr. Lee opined the language in the "Summary" was rather strong. He suggested the second to last sentence of the "Summary" read "By statutory mandate of protection of the public, the Board has the expectation that physicians maintain their educational and technical competencies for their current practices." Dr. Goldfarb opined that if a physician has a license, the Board can have certain expectations. Dr. Schneider and Dr. Krishna suggested staying with the more firm wording as it is already written. The Subcommittee was in agreement to leave the language as amended.

Ms. Connell stated the definition of terms is important when distributing the Draft to physicians, whether it is done by carefully considering the language or by distributing a short list defining field and area.

MOTION: Dr. Krishna moved to approve the Draft Scope of Guidelines as amended.

SECONDED: Dr. Mackstaller

VOTE: 6-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 0-absent

MOTION PASSED.

Dr. Goldfarb stated the approved Draft will now go before the full Board during the February 2008 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



Lisa S. Wynn, Executive Director